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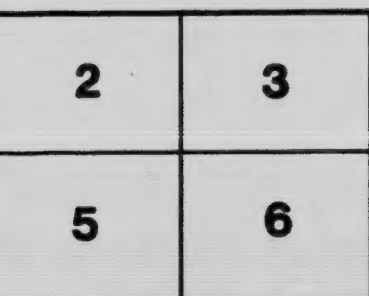
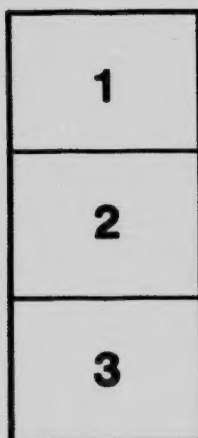
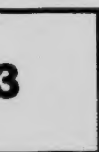
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The "Christian Stewardship" Series. No. 2.



HOW IT WORKS

:: By ::

Rev. S.^r Chadwick

TORONTO: METHODIST MISSION ROOMS
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Honor the Lord with thy
substance, and with the first-
fruits of all thine increase:
so shall thy barns be filled
with plenty, and thy presses
shall burst out with new
wine.—Prov. 3: 9, 10.



HOW IT WORKS.

By Rev. S. Chadwick.

THERE is a close connection between what a man gives and what he gets. God calls for the *whole* tithe, not for *a* tithe. There are some Christian people who think it is sufficient if they give a tenth, but such people are not equal to a decent Jew. The Jew gives a tenth after the first-fruits of his increase, and every third year a tenth for the poor; and probably he would give one-fifth or one-fourth of all he possessed. There is no definite sum laid down in the New Testament, but the command of the Old Testament is intensified and enlarged in the New.

The principle of giving the first-fruits to God is recognized in St. Paul's epistles. I believe people who give much lose much of the blessing of it because they give contrary to the principles laid down in the Bible. They often give as a result of impulse or rivalry and competition. God has never let go His right to the things material.

But having settled whether it is to be a tenth or a quarter, or whatever it be, remember that the proportion is the Lord's and not ours; and whosoever will thus honor God with His substance, in return God will honor him with prosperity. I will call the witnesses once again. I can furnish anyone with the names and addresses of all the cases I mention. In the north of England two brothers went into business. They were born in a very small cottage, and had

nothing to start business with. But they were enthusiastic in religion. They were determined to give to the Lord, and they made an arrangement that the Lord Jesus Christ should be a partner in the concern, and a fixed proportion should be given to Him out of all profits. They so gave and prospered. The first year they had a nice lot of money to give. The second year they had still more. The third year they had again more. At the fourth year the profits were so great that they went into four figures. Then they thought that the proportion to be set aside for God was too much to give to charity. Always be suspicious when you change your terms. It was for *charity* now, not for *the Lord*. Seeing it was such a big lot they divided it, took half for themselves, and gave the other half away. The next year, on the testimony of one of the brothers, they did not make a copper. And before the end of six months of the following year they came to a crisis.

The two brothers met one day, and locked themselves in the office to face the situation. And William said to James, "We have never prospered since we robbed God. The first charge on the business must be to pay back what we have robbed." They knelt down and prayed and made this promise. Before the end of the year the business pulled round. Strange enough, after some years, they made a similar mistake, and had a similar experience. To-day they are amongst the wealthiest Christian people in the land. They prospered as they honored God in their giving.

There is another man in the north of England (I will mention his name, Alderman Stephenson, of Newcastle). He told a man that he went into business resolved to spend a third, to save a third, and to give a third of all he made. He went on like that until he had saved enough. He went on spending a third and giving two-thirds. As he felt his family had quite enough, he now stops in business and gives all he makes. Jabez Wooley, of Garforth, did almost the same. The last seven years I received £1,000 from Mr. Wooley. That seems a large amount to give. But unless a man cultivates a habit of systematic giving when he has not much to give, he will give little when he is rich. The most striking case came to my knowledge in Leeds, during the time of the Armenian atrocities. A man wrote me, and sent £5 for the sufferers. I did not know him. I did not bother to find him out, and I did not hear from him again for two years.

Last year my treasurer rang me up on the telephone, and said we must find £6,000 before Christmas or we should be in a hole. We had a week of prayer. On the Monday night I received a letter from this gentleman saying he wanted to see me. He gave me all directions as to the tram I should take and all the rest of it. I put on my Sunday suit, and walked down the street he named, trying to find the house of a man who would give £125. I could find nothing but workmen's cottages. A policeman said, "Are you looking for anybody?" I said, "I am looking for a man named So-and-so." He said,

"There is a man by that name in the third house." I said, "I don't want a man in a cottage, but a man in a mansion." He said, "There is not a mansion about here; you would better try that house." I tried, and it was the house I wanted. A woman came to the door, and I did not know whether she was his wife or mother; she turned out to be his mother. A young fellow came in. He told me four years ago he earned less than £2 a week. He went into business on his own account. Being an enthusiastic Christian, and a thorough believer in systematic giving, he made a resolution that whatever he made God should have half of it.

He had not much to lose when he started. Whatever he got he would share and share alike with God. The way the money rolled in was quite embarrassing. I know this year he is giving at the rate of £600 a year, and I do not know how much more. Since the 1st of May, every month I received a cheque for £50, and this is only my share. I invited him and his wife to tea, for I wanted to know more about him, and my wife was interested in them. In the course of conversation she asked, "How do you account for the success which has come to you?" The man said to his wife, "You answer." She said, "It is simply this, that we have agreed that the first half of our profits shall be given to God, and we believe so long as we are faithful to that God will prosper us." That is their explanation for making money at such a rapid rate.

The first person who introduced me to the duty of

systematic giving was a widow woman, who was my landlady. She had been very poor. She was talking about this matter, and told me her income at one time was only ten shillings a week, and she gave a tenth then. I said, "How did you manage it?" She said, "When I got my ten shillings, I put them on the Bible in a row, and I took the best looking of the ten out, and put that in the Lord's box. Then I had nine shillings left." I said, "How did you live?" She said, "I do not know, unless it was this: I believe when I had taken one shilling for the Lord, the Lord made every penny of the nine shillings go as far as twopence."

The best woman in my church is a washerwoman. Last May we were talking about our Extension Scheme, and we wanted money. She said, "Mr. Chadwick, I do not think I can do any more, and I am troubled." I said, "I don't think you ought to give more, but go and pray about it; and pray for us, and we shall be content, and don't you trouble." But she said, "I want to give something. I wash four days a week, and I get two shillings a day and my meat, and I really feel I cannot give more." On the Saturday she came with a bright, beaming face, and said, "I can help you." "What can you do?" I said. She said, "Mrs. So-and-so wants me to wash for her on a Friday, and I am going to wash every Friday for God." Every Friday she washes for the Lord, and brings the two shillings and puts them into the fund, and she says Friday is the best day in the week. She is certainly the happiest looking woman

in Leeds. She honors the Lord, and the Lord fills her with His presence.

When in Leeds, I appealed to the men in financial difficulties, and I said, "Here is the way out of your difficulties, and your cure for bad times; adopt this Scriptural, reasonable method; honor God with all your increase in all your business." There was a man there who had given an intimation to his lawyer to call his creditors together on the following week. On the Sunday night he called on the lawyer, and told him he had better not do it. He went home to put into practice this new gospel. On the following Sunday I got a letter containing ten shillings. He said he could not trust himself to wait to the end of the month, but he would divide his takings now, at the end of the first week. He sent ten shillings the second week, and fifteen the third week, and a sovereign the fourth week. Then he told me the whole aspect of affairs had changed, and that he had taken more money in the month than he had ever taken in six months in his business previously.

Examine these facts in the light of Scripture and experience. I only ask you to try it. If your wages are regular, and come in week by week, it is as simple as A B C. Put away what you resolve to give to God each week. If you are in business, make arrangements in your book-keeping, and honor God by your giving, by taking Him into partnership, and as surely as there is a God in heaven His promise will be fulfilled.



